

Thompson (CA)	Udall (NM)	Waxman
Thompson (MS)	Velazquez	Weiner
Thune	Visclosky	Weldon (PA)
Thurman	Walsh	Wexler
Tierney	Wamp	Wolf
Towns	Waters	Woolsey
Turner	Watson (CA)	Wu
Udall (CO)	Watt (NC)	

NOT VOTING—6

Brady (TX)	Oxley	Roukema
Cubin	Riley	Trafficant

□ 2125

Mr. PASTOR changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 12, 2002, it is now in order to consider an amendment by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) or the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN).

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. WAMP

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment as the designee of the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 12 offered by Mr. WAMP:

In section 315(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as proposed to be amended by section 308(a)(1) of the bill, strike "(or, in the case of a candidate for Representative in or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress, \$1,000)".

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 344, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply raises the \$1,000 limit for individual contributions to House candidates to \$2,000, which is the same as the Senate-passed bill sets for Senators. The Senate-passed bill raised their \$1,000 contribution limit for the first time since 1974 to \$2,000.

I believe that all 435 Members of the House should pay close attention to what is happening, because I also believe that this legislation will succeed through the legislative process and ultimately be signed into law, and I do not think it is appropriate for the Senate to have a different level on individual contribution limits than House candidates.

I also think we need to look over the last generation at exactly what has happened in individual contribution limits to House candidates. In 1974, this \$1,000 was established, and individuals had that much influence in the process at that time. The fact is that the value of \$1,000 in 1974 was a lot greater than

the value of \$1,000 in 2002. As a matter of fact, if it was indexed to inflation, which we index other factors of money and value, if it was indexed to inflation, it would be well over \$3,000. I realize raising it from \$1,000 to \$3,000 would be too much to swallow at one time.

□ 2130

So this amendment is designed to strike a balance, to raise it to \$2,000, which was the balance struck that 59 U.S. Senators voted for when this legislation cleared that body, because it is a reasonable approach. And then it prospectively indexes that level to inflation so that you will not have to come back and adjust it later.

The fact is this: individuals have less influence today in the political process than they had then just because the value of their participation has been reduced.

The Senate-passed bill also sets the limit for White House candidates and Senators, but it leaves the House at \$1,000. So we are the only one of the considered that is not raised.

I think from a quality standpoint we need to raise it to \$2,000. From a value of individual contributions standpoint we need to raise it to \$2,000. I think we need to adopt the underlying premise they should be indexed into the future.

I will just say this before I reserve the balance of my time: through my 10 years of passionate involvement for campaign finance reform, I have never wanted and never desired not only to hurt my party, but to hurt the two-party system. I believe we should support the two-party system, and I certainly do not want to in any way hurt my party. But I never have been able to measure whether reform would help one party or hurt the other party, and at different times I felt maybe one had an advantage or not an advantage. I do not know how this will end up in terms of who gains the advantage, but I truly believe that this measure will strengthen the two-party system, and it will strengthen the parties at a time where we are removing the unlimited, unregulated soft money loophole. And when you remove that from the process, you need to increase the hard-dollar, the individual dollar contribution participation, so the parties can continue to thrive without looking to some new loophole. The parties need individual participation, and this will encourage individual participation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute to speak in opposition to this bill.

Mr. Chairman, this is a bad amendment; but let me put it first in perspective. Ten years ago President Bush vetoed a campaign finance reform bill, a tougher bill than any of the votes we have taken tonight. That bill that was on the President's desk banned soft money, it limited PAC contributions, it put a limit on individual contributions, it eliminated the issue-advocacy

ads, it tightened the coordinated expenses and independent expenditures, it put stricter lowest-unit rate rules on broadcasters, and it allowed some public financing.

That bill was vetoed. We had campaign finance reform in America, and it was vetoed by the President. We hope that this President will not veto this bill, but he should with this amendment in it. I will tell you why. This is a bad amendment. More than 300 Members in this House twice have voted against this amendment. The last two times that this amendment was on the floor, overwhelmingly they defeated it. I urge those Members to do the same tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF).

(Mr. HULSHOF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to ask support for the Wamp amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I think that we have been viewing this entire debate through the eyes of 435 incumbents. I think we need to take a look at what changes are we making to campaign finance laws through the eyes of a challenger.

I have run as a challenger on two occasions, Mr. Chairman, in 1994 and 1996, and then as a sitting office-holder in 1998 and the year 2000. I can make a case that soft money actually benefits a challenger. Nonetheless, I think we should ban soft money at the Federal level.

But what do we do to assist that challenger in the meantime? I think the gentleman's amendment is right on point. We have to make it easier for someone in our respective districts to take us on. Everybody knows that there are inherent advantages to an incumbency, whether it is the power of the frank, whether it is the ability to stand here and talk and be recognized on C-SPAN. There are these built-in advantages to a sitting office-holder.

What do we do for the 435 candidates who may want to seek to serve in this body? Based on that issue, I think that this amendment is timely. I think it is an issue of parity, as far as this body and the other body; and I think with the corresponding ban on soft money, I think we should look to an increase in hard dollars and really give those challengers the ability to stand for public office.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio).

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Chairman, in response to the gentleman before me, hard money was outraised by incumbents 3.2 to 1. That is a totally BS argument, to say, hey, this is going to help challengers. It is going to help incumbents.